



## THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA

*Week of February 9, 2009*

*The following information is a brief summary on the bills introduced and key hearings that the Department of Early Learning (DEL) has monitored. This weekly summary is not an indication of bills or positions supported by DEL. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bills and hearings related to issues impacting early learning.*

### **Bills**

- **House Bill 2151** was introduced on February 11, 2009 by Representative Springer and referred to House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee. This bill would eliminate certain state boards and commissions on June 30, 2010. The bill requires agencies to identify less costly and more effective methods to ensure a broad range of citizen participation. A public hearing was scheduled for February 13. Find out more about HB 2151 [here](#).
- **House Bill 2107** was introduced on February 10, 2009 by Representative Kagi and referred to House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee. This bill would require DEL and Thrive by Five of Washington to jointly fund evidence-based and research-based home visitation programs for high-risk families to improve parenting skills and awareness about children's early development and its impact on long-term outcomes for children. A public hearing is scheduled for February 19. Find out more about HB 2107 [here](#).
- **House Bill 2197** was introduced on February 12, 2009 by Representative Armstrong and referred to the State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee. The bill would abolish the Department of Social and Health Services and replace it with the following new departments: 1) the Department of Economic Services, which would conduct financial eligibility evaluations for all the newly created agencies; 2) the Department of Medical Assistance; 3) the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, which will consist of the long-term care, programs for developmentally disabled persons, vocational-rehabilitation, mental health, and drug and alcohol substance abuse programs, and the special commitment center; and 4) the Department of Children's Services. Find more information about HB 2197 [here](#).
- **Senate Bill 5915** was introduced on February 9, 2009 by Senator Prentice and referred to the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee. The bill would allow state agencies to adopt or change their regulations by emergency rule making when the

state's employment growth forecast is less than one percent in any fiscal year. Find more information about SB 5915 [here](#).

- **Senate Bill 5905** was introduced on February 6, 2009 by Senator Hargrove and referred to the Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee. This bill would require DEL to create and convene a review panel, under certain guidelines, if a child care licensee requests a review of a compliance agreement or requests a modification of their license. A public hearing is scheduled for February 20. Find more information about SB 5905 [here](#).
- **Senate Bill 5993** was introduced on February 12, 2009 by Senator Tom and referred to the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Committee. The bill would set new pre-service training standards and minimum training hours for anyone applying for a child care center or family home child care license, and for child care directors, program supervisors or managers. Find more information about SB 5993 [here](#).

### **Hearings**

- On Tuesday, February 10, the House Education Appropriations Committee held a work session on education programs proposed for reduction in the Governor's proposed 2009-11 budget (early learning, K-12, and higher education). Committee staff presented on the Governor's proposed 2009-2011 budget for the Department of Early Learning. To view the TVW archive of this hearing, please click this [link](#).
- On Tuesday, February 10, the Senate Labor, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee held a public hearing on SB 5572, a bill that would allow collective bargaining for child care center directors and workers. Testimony was provided by representatives of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 925, YMCA, a University of Maryland professor and from several child care center owners. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at [link](#).
- On Wednesday, the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee held a public hearing on several early learning related bills, including: SB 5617, a bill changing provisions for the Early Learning Advisory Council ; SB 5620, a bill specifying the Legislature's desire for one voluntary rating system for child care centers and early education programs; SB 5619, a bill that would require the development of recommendations for kindergarten entry assessments; SB 5865, a bill that would require JLARC to review and compare state ECEAP program and the federal Head Start program; and SB 5506, a bill that would require the state to gradually raise the child care subsidy payment rate. Testimony on these bills was provided by representatives of SEIU, the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC), Washington Association of Head Start and ECEAP (WSA), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Tulalip Tribes, the state Health Care Authority, licensed child care providers and by individual citizens. The TVW archive of this hearing can be found at this [link](#)

- On Thursday, the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee held a public hearing on HB 1944, a bill about the development and implementation of a statewide kindergarten assessment; and HB 1943, requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce. Testimony on both bills was provided by Sonali Patel, Senior Policy Advisor, DEL. For HB 1943, testimony was provided by representatives from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Economic Opportunity Institute, WAEYC, Early Learning Action Alliance, United Way of Pierce County, and child care providers. For HB 1944, testimony was provided by representatives from the Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction, WAEYC, Colville Confederated Tribes, and Tulalip Tribes. The TVW archive of this hearing can be found at this [here](#).